United Nations S/2005/419

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 29 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward a copy of the enclosed letter from the President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General on the United Nations presence in post-UNAMSIL Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joe Robert **Pemagbi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-40335 (E) 010705

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 21 June 2005 from the President of Sierra Leone to the Secretary-General

I write to convey my greetings and best wishes and to share with you my Government's views regarding the peace consolidation efforts under way in Sierra Leone, including a possible United Nations follow-on presence after the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) from the country.

Sierra Leone has made significant strides in the consolidation of peace and stability during the past four years, since the decade-long conflict was officially ended. We successfully completed the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programme and embarked on the implementation of a national recovery strategy focusing on the reinstatement of State authority throughout the country, strengthening the security sector, and rehabilitation and restoration of vital public infrastructure and services destroyed during the conflict. These and other measures were directed mainly at addressing the immediate consequences of the war and paving the way for sustained peace, economic development and social progress.

These accomplishments, however, would not have been possible without the assistance of the United Nations and your personal support and leadership. The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone has been at the forefront of all our endeavours to bring about peace and stability and to tackle the challenges of rebuilding our country. In this connection, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people and Government of Sierra Leone and on my own personal behalf, to extend our deep gratitude to the United Nations, to your good self, including your Special Representative, who cooperated very closely and effectively with us, and to the dedicated peacekeepers, including civilians, police and military personnel of UNAMSIL.

As the peacekeeping phase of the United Nations involvement is nearing its completion, the Government of Sierra Leone has now embarked on the consolidation of peace and sustainable development aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict. The successful completion of the mandate of UNAMSIL would open a new chapter in the United Nations peacebuilding engagement in Sierra Leone to consolidate and sustain the achievements made thus far.

To that end, the Government of Sierra Leone believes that a follow-on United Nations presence would be indispensable after the withdrawal of UNAMSIL by the end of 2005. Such a presence would enable us to continue to benefit from United Nations support in the consolidation of peace and stability, as well as to further enhance confidence-building, especially in the period leading up to the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 2007. We also see such a post-UNAMSIL United Nations presence as a unique opportunity for the international community to support Sierra Leone in the implementation of coherent and sustainable peacebuilding strategy and in building national capacity for conflict prevention. In this respect, the Government of Sierra Leone looks forward to the establishment of an integrated United Nations presence that would ensure a coordinated United Nations engagement in Sierra Leone, particularly in the areas of peace consolidation

and governance, development, human rights and security. An integrated United Nations presence could also play a critical role in ensuring the continued engagement and attention of the donor community in support of Sierra Leone's efforts at achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Another important focus of the proposed post-UNAMSIL United Nations presence in Sierra Leone should be supporting Sierra Leone in national capacity-building, including the preparations towards the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007. As part of these overall objectives, we also see the need for some 10-15 military liaison officers and about 20 civilian police advisers to serve as liaison and work closely with the armed forces and the Sierra Leone police in supporting capacity-building activities. With respect to the civilian components of the follow-on mission, we would in particular like to highlight the importance of strong peacebuilding, governance and human rights sections. Also, Radio UNAMSIL could continue to play an important role as the information component of the follow-on presence.

Sierra Leone is at a crossroads. Much has been achieved over the past years in our joint endeavours to restore and consolidate peace and stability and in laying the foundations for sustainable development. However, the challenges ahead of us are enormous, and the support of the United Nations remains critical to sustain these achievements and to make further progress, including the prevention of a recurrence of conflict in the future. In that regard, I am confident that the United Nations will continue its commitment to Sierra Leone over the coming critical period as we endeavour to achieve peace consolidation and sustainable development.

In addition, we are aware of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia and we are also aware of the suggestions in the resolutions adopted for both countries to avail themselves of the helicopter gunship facility to be stationed in Sierra Leone. This will have the added advantage of increasing security for the operations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including meeting any special eventuality in the post-UNAMSIL period.

(*Signed*) Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan **Kabbah**